## Message Text

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**ACTION CU-03** 

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 USIA-06 OMB-01 ISO-00 /017 W

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R 261931Z JAN 76 FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7776

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: OEXC BF

SUBJ: FY 76 ALLOCATION FOR CU EXCHANGE PROGRAM

REF: A. STATE 017421 B. STATE 298119, DEC. 18, 1975 C. NASSAU 0089 D. STATE 007513 E. STATE 004720 F. STATE 273757, NOV. 19, 1975

- 1. POST REGRETS FACT THAT, WITHIN 17 PERCENT CUT IN CU/ARA BUDGET (REF A) BAHAMAS FY 1976 ALLOCATION CUT 40 PERCENT AND IVP PORTION THEREOF 60 PERCENT. WE ALSO REGRET FACT THAT THIS DECISION -- AMOUNTING TO CANCELLATION OF REMAINDER OF FY 1976 IVP PROGRAM FOR BAHAMAS WAS TAKEN WITHOUT INPUT FROM POST AND DESPITE EARLIER RECENT REASSURANCE (REF B) THAT REMAINDER OF PREVIOUS ALLOCATION REMAINED AVAILABLE FOR LAST TWO QUARTERS OF FISCAL YEAR. AS A RESULT, WE WILL HAVE TO CANCEL TWO OF FOUR IVP'S, ALL IN IMPORTANT TARGET AREAS, PLANNED FOR THIS YEAR. ONE, NOMINATION OF RADIO BAHAMAS NEWS DIRECTOR (REF C AND EARLIER) TO MULTI-REGIONAL RADIO PROJECT ALREADY WELL DOWN THE PIKE. (E.G., STATION MANAGEMENT MEETING THIS WEEK TO DETERMINE WHETHER ITS PROGRAMS CAN BE RESCHEDULED TO FIT CANDIDATE'S ABSENCE.) SECOND, MULTI-REGIONAL PROJECT ON INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT (REF D), CONSIDERED VERY IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY TO INFLUENCE GCOB ATTITUDES TOWARD BILLION DOLLAR U.S. PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN COUNTRY AND WAS TO HAVE BEEN SUBJECT OF LETTER THIS WEEK TO PRIME MINISTER, WHO IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS.
- 2. IN ADDITION TO LOST OPPORTUNITIES, POST ALSO PUT INTO EMBARRASSING POSITION OF RESCINDING TWO OFFERS ALREADY PRO-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FFERED -- THIS ON TOP OF SECOND TURNDOWN OF BAHAMAS CIP

CANDIDATES (REF E) WHOSE APPLICATIONS AND CURRICULA VITAE HAD BEEN ON FILE FOR TWO YEARS.

3. POST HOPES THAT IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO REQUEST RECONSIDERATION OF SIZE OF BAHAMAS CUT AND SPECIFICALLY REQUESTS REALLOCATION OF ENOUGH FUNDS FOR RADIO OR INVESTMENT GRANT. (WE ASSUME WE MAY STILL NOMINATE CANDIDATE FOR FOREIGN POLICY SEMINAR IN REF F SINCE IT IS REGIONALLY FUNDED.) WE ALSO REQUEST CHANCE TO AT LEAST COMMENT ON FUTURE CUTS WHILE THEY ARE STILL IN PLANNING STAGE.

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